

Today's News - Tuesday, May 3, 2016

- Critics begin weighing in on Snøhetta's SFMOMA addition: Iovine finds it "the clearest statement yet about the new era of museums. And it does so without losing its bearings or soul."
- Wainwright, on the other hand, finds "the marriage of old and new is not a happy one - a building-sized baked Alaska slumped on the skyline," with the Botta "being considerably lobotomized in the process."
- Minutillo sounds a more cheerful note: the addition shows "the appropriate amount of deference to Botta's aggressive pile - but, in a sense, just as eccentric - pure San Francisco, quirks and all."
- Zara sees the façade as "weird" and "totally alien" to its surroundings, but its "odd appearance is a collection of carefully considered details" that "plays with scale in unorthodox ways."
- French billionaire Pinault will finally get his own Paris museum with an Ando-led makeover of the city's historic stock exchange building near the Louvre.
- Hawthorne has an engaging Q&A with two members of Assemble, the London collective that "continues to defy categorization," and "creates low-budget ad hoc designs that also happen to be sharply photogenic."
- Oatman-Stanford delves deep into history to ponder why America's most innovative companies are "stuck in 1950s suburbia - few are aware that Apple's monumental project is already outdated, mimicking a half-century of stagnant suburban corporate campuses - by design" (fascinating read and images!).
- An interesting look at the reasons "faulty land-use regulation is throttling London."
- Saffron minces no words about what she thinks of the privatization of some of Philly's parks: "The decision to monetize Franklin Square in the evenings takes the philosophy of privatism to a disturbing new level" (we hear echoes of well-founded Garden Bridge and Pier55 complaints).
- Richardson rounds up of "the Capability Browns of today" who "are most likely to find satisfaction working in cities in a 'post-industrial' environment" than pastoral parcels of property.
- Eyefuls of the four shortlisted proposals for L.A.'s "much-hated" Pershing Square (some interesting comments, too).
- A hidden Mies gem in Des Moines to get a \$10 million makeover; no architect credited, but Lohan will be building an apartment complex next door that "will pay respect to" his grandfather's boxy steel and glass building.
- Parker parses Taliesin West, a "masterwork preserved" in the Sonoran Desert that "provides a deeper understanding of FLWs inspirational genius."
- Shirk shares the history (and potential future) of the 1964-65 New York World's Fair's New York State Pavilion towers that now look like "abandoned villain headquarters in a comic book, or like an ambitious idea gone south. It seems fitting then that the most prominent media use in recent years was that finale in 'Men in Black.'"
- Stead cheers ARM Architecture winning the Australian Institute of Architects' Gold Medal: "I have long been in awe of the architects' audacity. The renegades have been admitted to the establishment."
- Three winners take home a 2016 James Beard Restaurant Design Award.
- Call for entries: Bespoke Access Awards 2016 - Celia Thomas Prize international design competition to improve the hotel experience for disabled and able-bodied guests.

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At SFMOMA, Stairways to Creative Heaven: The expansion of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art makes the clearest statement yet about the new era of museums: And it does so without losing its bearings or soul...Welcome to the new museum experience - casual, transparent and diverting...The contrast between the new addition...and the 1995 postmodern museum...is stark and revealing. By Julie V. Iovine -- Mario Botta (1995); Snøhetta - Wall Street Journal

SFMOMA's new extension - a gigantic meringue with a hint of Ikea: ...the marriage of old and new is not a happy one: ...a building-sized baked Alaska slumped on the skyline...Compared to...the Botta building next door, the whole thing feels a bit cheap, in both material quality and architectural thinking...it makes you wonder why one was deferentially kept at the expense of the other, while being considerably lobotomized in the process. By Oliver Wainwright -- Mario Botta (1995); Snøhetta - Guardian (UK)

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art: On the outside, Snøhetta has found more success than most in adding to an iconic, or idiosyncratic, building...an addition that asserts itself as a work of architecture in its own right, while showing the appropriate amount of deference to Mario Botta's aggressive pile. It does so by turning its back on Botta...allows [the] building to be distinct...but, in a sense, just as eccentric...addition is pure San Francisco, quirks and all. By Josephine Minutillo - Architectural Record

4 Ways Snøhetta's SFMoMA Expansion Changes the Way You View Art: By all counts, the expansion is weird: its all-white facade...ripples and curves in a way that is totally alien to the building in front of and behind it. This odd appearance, however, is a collection of carefully considered details...the interiors exude a user-friendliness that channels the clichés that color the Bay Area...The whole of the museum plays with scale in unorthodox ways. By Janelle Zara [images] - Artinfo

François Pinault to realise long-held ambition of opening Paris museum: Billionaire collector strikes deal with city's mayor to convert historic stock exchange...close to the Louvre...Tadao Ando...along with two young French architects, Lucie Ninoy and Thibault Marca - will head the renovation of the building...with the conservation architect Pierre-Antoine Gâtier... - The Art Newspaper (UK)

Assemble might have a Turner Prize, but the London collective continues to defy categorization: ...work hovers somewhere between art and architecture, between built space and cultural critique. creates low-budget ad hoc designs that also happen to be sharply photogenic. Q&A with Louis Schulz and Maria Lisogorskaya. By Christopher Hawthorne - Los Angeles Times

Why Are America's Most Innovative Companies Still Stuck in 1950s Suburbia? When Apple finishes its new \$5 billion headquarters in Cupertino, California, the technorati will ooh and ahh...But few are aware that Apple's monumental project is already outdated, mimicking a half-century of stagnant suburban corporate campuses that isolated themselves - by design..."it's 1952 all over again"... By Hunter Oatman-Stanford -- Louise Mazingo [images] - Collectors Weekly

The grip tightens: Faulty land-use regulation is throttling London: The motor of the British economy is becoming less productive and more unequal. The fundamental problem is how land is used and regulated...Poor land-use regulation is the main reason for London's crazy prices. Two problems stand out. - The Economist (UK)

The public cost of privatizing Philadelphia's parks: Sorry, parks exist to provide city-dwellers with a green respite, not do yeoman's work for the economy...The decision to monetize Franklin Square in the evenings takes the philosophy of privatism to a disturbing new level...We know public-private partnerships aren't going away any time soon. The least a city can do is make sure the emphasis is on the public part. By Inga Saffron - Philadelphia Inquirer

Who are the Capability Browns of today? Those of Brownian mindset, who seek to enhance or alter the identity of large tracts of land, as opposed to decorating what is already there, are most likely to find satisfaction working in cities in a "post-industrial" environment...some "new Browns" out there. By Tim Richardson -- James Corner Field Operations; Kate Cullity/Taylor Cullity Lethlean; Kongjian Yu/Turenscape; Kim Wilkie; Thomas Woltz/Nelson Byrd Woltz; West 8; McGregor Coxall; Topotek1;

Here Are the 4 Proposals For Redesigning Much-Hated Pershing Square: All possibilities would create a significantly greener park on this site in the heart of Downtown Los Angeles. -- Agence Ter and Team, James Corner Field Operations/Frederick Fisher & Partners; SWA/Morphosis, and wHY + Civitas [images]- Curbed Los Angeles

Hidden architectural gem to get \$10 million makeover: A boxy steel and glass building...the Catholic Pastoral Center...doesn't command a lot of attention. But...it has a cult following...was one of the first - if not the first - steel and glass modernist building in downtown Des Moines...An apartment complex planned next door...will pay respect to the center's mid-century modern architecture... -- Ludwig Mies van der Rohe (1962); Dirk Lohan; BNIM- Des Moines Register (Iowa)

Following Frank Lloyd Wright Into the Desert: A masterwork preserved on 10 acres of the Sonoran Desert provides a deeper understanding of FLW's inspirational genius...Taliesin West was a passion project. It wasn't commissioned by anyone. By Jennifer Parker -- Gunny Harboe/Harboe Architects [images]- Artinfo

Towers of Tomorrow: They were the crown of the 1964-65 New York World's Fair's so-called New York State Pavilion...Philip Johnson envisioned them being the "Eiffel Tower of Queens"...They looked like abandoned villain headquarters in a comic book, or like an ambitious idea gone south, a dream of the future that went out not with a bang, but with a whimper...It seems fitting then that the most prominent media use...in recent years was that finale in "Men in Black"... By Adrian Shirk [images]- Catapult

Getting away with it: Ashton Raggatt McDougall [ARM Architecture] wins the Gold Medal:...the Australian Institute of Architects' highest honour. It's a richly deserved win...even though their work is often described as contentious or provocative or colourful...it is usually all three...I have long been in awe of the architects' audacity...The renegades have been admitted to the establishment. By Naomi Stead [images]- Architecture & Design (Australia)

Restaurant Design Awards winners announced at 2016 James Beard Awards: James Beard Foundation presented its first ever Design Icon Award...to The Four Seasons restaurant in New York, which opened in 1959. -- Renzo Piano Building Workshop/Cooper Robertson/Bentel & Bentel; Land and Sea Dept [images]- CLAD (Community of Leisure Architects & Designers)

Call for entreis: Bespoke Access Awards 2016 - Celia Thomas Prize international design competition: Better design to improve the hotel experience for disabled and able-bodied guests with creative and original ideas in architecture, interior design, product design and service design; cash prizes; deadline: September 1 - RIBA / Bespoke Hotels Group

A Filtered View #5: Jet Fuel: The perfect client offers up enough fuel to run the design jets at the most optimum level. By Charles F. Bloszies, FAIA- ArchNewsNow.com

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